

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

PRESS RELEASE

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JAPANESE KABUKI DANCER PERFORMS AT MUSEUM OCTOBER 26

Japanese dancer and choreographer Sachiyo Ito, interpreter of traditional Japanese dance, will perform dances of Japan's colorful and popular Kabuki theater at The Cleveland Museum of Art on Wednesday, October 26, at 7:00 pm. Kabuki theater, which dates to the 17th century, is a rich blend of drama, dance, and music, using gorgeous costumes, makeup, and staging to create spectacular visual effects.

In her hour-long program, Miss Ito will explain the characteristic steps, movements, and gestures used by Kabuki actor/dancers. She will then perform dances from a variety of Kabuki plays, from comic to romantic to ceremonial, ending with a dance she has choreographed herself.

Born in Tokyo, Sachiyo Ito began her formal training in classical Japanese dance at the age of seven. Following graduation from the Hanayagi School of Dance in 1971, she taught dance and toured Japan with a Kabuki group. In 1973 she was awarded a scholarship by the Peace International Scholarship Fund to study dance at New York University, where she received her master's degree in 1974. Now residing in New York City, Miss Ito has taught and presented dance programs at cultural and educational institutions throughout the United States and Europe, including the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, the Connecticut College American Dance Festival, the Dublin Theater Festival, and the Bonn International Dance Workshop. She taught Japanese dance to the original

Broadway cast of "Pacific Overtures" and has choreographed many original works.

Miss Ito's program, presented by The Asia Society, New York, is part of a series of free programs on Asian art and culture offered by The Cleveland Museum of Art this fall. Japanese woodblock prints of Kabuki actors and dancers can be seen in an exhibition on view at the Museum through November 13, A Private World: Japanese and Chinese Art from the Kelvin Smith Collection.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland OH 44106; 216/421-7340.